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OUTLINE OF FUNCTIONS OF UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

(Reprinted from Miscellaneous Publication 376—Directory of Organization and Field Activities of the Department of Agriculture: 1939)

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Department of Agriculture is charged with acquiring and diffusing among the people of the United States useful information on subjects connected with agriculture, in the most general and comprehensive sense of the term. In addition to conducting research and extension work, the Department administers numerous Federal laws relating to agricultural adjustment, conservation and land use, flood control, farm credit, crop insurance, rural electrification, marketing and distribution of agricultural products, regulation of interstate commerce in food, drugs, and related products, protection and management of the national forests, operation of the national weather service, and others.

The Secretary of Agriculture exercises general supervision and control over the affairs of the Department and formulates and establishes general policies to be pursued by its various branches. The general administrative staff of the Department under the Office of the Secretary includes, in addition to the Secretary's immediate office, the offices of the Under Secretary and Assistant Secretary, the offices of Land Use Coordination, Information, Personnel, Budget and Finance, Plant and Operations, Marketing and Regulatory Work, Research,¹ Extension, Foreign Agricultural Relations, and Solicitor. The Under Secretary and the Assistant Secretary act for the Secretary in his absence, and assist in policy formation and in public and official contacts. The heads of the respective offices above mentioned report directly to the Secretary and each has general supervision over the work of the Department of the type which the title of the office implies.

In the Office of the Secretary, the Agricultural Program Board acts to review, evaluate, and make recommendations to the Secretary on the plans and programs developed by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, in the light of administrative feasibility and practicability, the interests of farmers and the general public, and the over-all needs of the Department. The Land Use Coordinator serves as Chairman of the Board, the membership of which includes the Chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the heads of the agencies administering the action programs of the Department, and members of the Secretary's staff.

OFFICE OF LAND USE COORDINATION

The Office of Land Use Coordination directs the coordination of land-use activities as they relate to the work of the Department as a whole, including the integration of land policies and the clearance of land-acquisition projects; the establishment of uniform standards for surveys relating to land use and the correlation of survey projects; the formulation of policies relating to water-utilization, water-conservation, and water-facilities programs; the coordination of adminis-

¹ Office of Experiment Stations.

trative and procedural phases of the land-use programs; the coordination of flood control programs; the coordination of the land-use phases of rural credit programs; and the integration of the Department's land-use programs with those of State agencies. The Office cooperates with the Director of Research and chiefs of bureaus in coordinating land-use research with the survey and detailed planning work of the action agencies and also cooperates with heads of action agencies in coordinating basic land-use policies and programs. On behalf of the Secretary, staff members of the Office represent the Department on the National Resources Planning Board and in other interdepartmental activities relating to land use.

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL

The Office of Personnel has general direction and supervision of the personnel, position classification, organization, placement, safety work, and related operations of the Department as a whole. It conducts the business of the Department with the Civil Service Commission and, when personnel matters are concerned, with other agencies doing business with the Department of Agriculture.

OFFICE OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

The Office of Budget and Finance is responsible for the determination of the management policies governing the acquisition, distribution, expenditure, audit, and accounting of all funds at the disposal of the Department, whether appropriated, transferred, or otherwise acquired; for the general management and coordination of procurement activities; for the development of systems and methods governing the recordation, use, and disposition of Department property; and for representation of the Department before the Bureau of the Budget, the General Accounting Office, the Treasury Department, the Appropriations Committees of the Congress, and other Federal or non-Federal agencies in the conduct of the financial business of the Department.

OFFICE OF PLANT AND OPERATIONS

The Office of Plant and Operations is responsible for the housing of the operating plant of the Department; the operation of the communications system; the operation of the motor transport service for the Department's activities in Washington; the development of technical departmental standards for the various types of equipment and services used by the Department; the fiscal and personnel management and control functions for the Office of the Secretary, and the supervision of the departmental service and management functions of the Beltsville Research Center, such as the maintenance of a central mechanical and repair shop, tilling land, planting and harvesting crops, operating a central sewage disposal plant, and furnishing electrical energy, telephone, janitor, motortruck and other related services.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF MARKETING

The Office of the Director of Marketing directs the coordination of all phases of marketing activities of the Department, including the financing and handling of surplus agricultural commodities; the

administration of marketing agreements; the regulation of commodity exchanges; and marketing research, service, and regulatory work.

OFFICE OF EXPERIMENT STATIONS

The Office of Experiment Stations administers Federal funds provided by the Hatch, Adams, Purnell, and supplementary acts, and the Bankhead-Jones Act for the support of research in agriculture and home economics by experiment stations in the several States and Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico, and has immediate supervision of the experiment station of the U. S. Department of Agriculture in Puerto Rico. It examines in detail the work and expenditures of the State experiment stations to ascertain whether the Federal funds for their support are used and accounted for in accordance with the Federal acts and rulings, and reports annually on the work and expenditures of the experiment stations, as required by law.

The Office aids in coordinating the research work of the Department of Agriculture and in coordinating the research work of the Department with that of the State, Alaskan, Hawaiian, and Puerto Rican agricultural colleges and experiment stations. It collects and disseminates information and gives such advice and assistance as will best promote the efficiency of the stations and the effective coordination of their work with that of the Department, including the issuance of Experiment Station Record which gives a current review of progress and results of scientific research conducted by the stations and other agencies for the improvement of agriculture and rural life.

The Chief of the Office and Director of Research is responsible for the administration of the Special Research Fund, Department of Agriculture, including the planning and coordination of the research program of the Department under this fund which is authorized by the Bankhead-Jones Act of June 29, 1935. The Chief of the Office, as Director of Research, with the cooperation of the bureaus involved, is responsible for the planning and coordination of the programs of the four regional research laboratories authorized by section 202 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938.

EXTENSION SERVICE

The Extension Service aids in making available the results of research and investigation in agriculture and home economics to those who can put the information into practice. It coordinates the extension activities of the bureaus of the Department and of the State agricultural colleges and deals with emergency situations involving Department assistance to farmers. It represents the Department in the conduct of cooperative extension work in agriculture and home economics by the State agricultural colleges and the Department under the Smith-Lever, Capper-Ketcham, Bankhead-Jones, and supplementary acts of Congress. Each of the 48 States, and the Territories of Hawaii and Alaska, and Puerto Rico, has a director of extension who represents jointly the Department and the State agricultural college in the administration of extension work. In each State the organization consists of a State administrative and supervisory staff with headquarters in most cases at the State agricultural college, and county agricultural agents, county home demonstration agents, and

county club agents, who have their offices usually in the county seats. The distinguishing feature of extension teaching is the field demonstration, although other educational methods are also utilized to teach the best farm and home practices to farm men, women, and boys and girls. The Extension Service also has charge of the preparation, installation, and display of agricultural exhibits at State, interstate, and international fairs and of the motion-picture activities of the Department.

OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS

The Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations is responsible for the collection, through the Foreign Service of the United States, the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome and other sources, of information on foreign agricultural production; foreign markets, foreign trade, and related matters of significance to American agriculture, and the dissemination of this information. A limited number of commodity specialists is available for investigation of foreign market conditions affecting particular groups of American agricultural products, including studies of competitive foreign production.

The Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations coordinates the relations of the Department of Agriculture in respect to foreign trade and allied problems and policies with the Department of State and other departments and agencies of the Government, and with foreign governments and private agencies.

OFFICE OF INFORMATION

The Office of Information supervises the expenditure of the appropriations for printing and binding for the Department; supervises all editing, illustrating, printing, and distribution of publications; and maintains an Addressing, Duplicating, and Mailing Section to serve the various bureaus of the Department. The Office prepares special Department reports and serves as a departmental clearing house for information prepared for the press as a result of the research, regulatory, conservation, service, and action programs of the Department; it correlates information on the results of specialized work in diverse lines, and presents facts in forms most practical for use by farmers and the general public. The Office also furnishes daily, through radio stations in all parts of the United States, authentic information of practical use to farmers and others concerning the discoveries made by the Department and the farm practices recommended by it; and answers by radio questions in all fields of agriculture and home economics.

LIBRARY

The Department Library, with its branch libraries in the various bureaus, contains approximately 300,000 volumes on agriculture and the related sciences, technology, and economics, and receives currently 5,000 periodicals. A list of the periodicals currently received in the Library has been published as Miscellaneous Publication No. 245.

The dictionary card catalog of the main library, containing more than a half million cards, is a record of the book resources of the whole Department. It is supplemented by several extensive special indexes

maintained by the branch libraries in the various bureaus. These together form the most comprehensive bibliography of agriculture and the related sciences available in the United States. A series of bibliographical contributions is issued by the Library in mimeographed form, and a separate series of Agricultural Economics Bibliographies is issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics library. A brief list of the more important accessions to the library is contained in the mimeographed series, Agricultural Library Notes, issued monthly by the library. In addition, the following lists are issued currently by branch libraries in the various bureaus: Agricultural Economics Literature (Bureau of Agricultural Economics library); Current Literature in Agricultural Engineering (Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering library); Cotton Literature (Division of Cotton Marketing library, Agricultural Marketing Service); Entomology Current Literature (Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine library); Forestry Current Literature (Forest Service library); Plant Science Literature (Bureau of Plant Industry library); and Soil Conservation Literature (Soil Conservation Service library).

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR

The Office of the Solicitor is the law office of the Department, in accordance with a statute providing that "the legal work of the Department of Agriculture shall be performed under the supervision and direction of the Solicitor" (5 U. S. C., sec. 518). Among the duties performed by the Office are: Advising the Secretary and other administrative officials on legal problems in connection with all phases of their duties; assisting in the preparation of proposed legislative bills, administrative rules and regulations, orders, and proclamations; rendering to the Secretary and to other officials of the Department legal opinions construing and applying statutes, Executive orders, and administrative rules and regulations; drafting, examining, and construing contracts, deeds, mortgages, leases, and other documents; approving the organization of cooperative associations, soil conservation districts, and similar agencies and their eligibility for participation in departmental programs; examining evidence to determine whether there have been violations of acts administered by the Department and, in proper cases, recommending prosecution to the Attorney General; preparing pleadings and briefs in civil and criminal cases involving the Department and the laws administered by it, and cooperating with the Department of Justice in the handling of such litigation in the lower and appellate courts; representing the Department as counsel in hearings before the Secretary; handling the contacts of the Department with other governmental agencies, State and Federal, in legal matters; conducting administrative hearings, and issuing tentative findings, conclusions, and orders with respect thereto, under various acts administered by the Department; prosecuting applications for patents by Department employees where the subject of the patent is used in departmental work; examining titles to land authorized for purchase or on which loans will be made by the Department; considering and recommending appropriate disposal of claims for damage to property of the United States in the custody of the Department and claims against the Government for damage arising from operations of the Department.

AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION

The Agricultural Adjustment Administration is established within the Department of Agriculture to carry out certain provisions of the Agricultural Adjustment Act approved May 12, 1933, as amended, of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act approved February 29, 1936, of the Sugar Act of 1937, approved September 1, 1937, and of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, approved February 16, 1938.

Under the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act the Secretary of Agriculture is empowered to encourage farm practices that protect and improve the soil, by making payments to producers who adopt specific soil-building practices or who increase the proportion of their land devoted to soil-benefiting crops by shifting from the production of intensely cultivated soil-depleting crops. In encouraging wise use of the land, this act also looks toward a more equitable ratio between the net income purchasing power of people on farms and that of people not on farms. For carrying out the purposes of the act, an appropriation of not to exceed \$500,000,000 annually is authorized and the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to use the organization and personnel of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

The Sugar Act of 1937 requires the Secretary to estimate annually the sugar needs of American consumers and to allot the estimated quantity among the various areas, domestic and foreign, supplying this market. It also provides for payments to domestic sugarcane and sugar-beet producers.

The Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 strengthens and continues the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act and establishes its objectives as a part of permanent farm policy in the protection and maintenance of soil resources. In addition, the act offers farm income protection by providing for the following components of a national farm program: (1) National acreage goals that encourage plantings in line with domestic demand, foreign markets and ample carry-overs. (2) Loans on crops stored in an ever-normal granary. (3) Marketing quotas, when needed, on cotton, wheat, corn, rice, and tobacco. (4) Crop insurance for wheat.

The act further authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to make parity payments to producers of cotton, wheat, corn, rice, and tobacco when appropriations are made available for that purpose and when such payments are needed to raise producer incomes to more equitable levels.

DIVISION OF MARKETING AND MARKETING AGREEMENTS

The Division of Marketing and Marketing Agreements is established within the Department of Agriculture to administer the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, section 32 of Public No. 320, approved August 24, 1935, and related legislation.

The Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into marketing agreements with processors, handlers, producers, and associations of producers of certain agricultural commodities, such agreements being designed to stabilize and improve the market conditions of the commodities concerned and to increase returns to producers by regulating the flow of the products

in commerce with foreign nations and among the States and by other methods. Under certain conditions the Secretary is empowered to issue orders based on the marketing agreements designed to accomplish the same purposes.

Under section 32 of Public No. 320, authority is provided for encouraging the exportation and domestic consumption of agricultural commodities by diverting burdensome surpluses of farm products from normal commercial channels to foreign markets, to relief, to byproducts, and to new uses. Export, byproduct, and new use diversion programs are planned and conducted by the Division. Relief diversion is accomplished in close cooperation with the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation. On the basis of economic analyses of the current market situation the Division develops purchase and distribution plans for the consideration of the Secretary. Upon approval the operations are conducted by the Corporation in accordance with the directions of the Secretary.

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY AND ENGINEERING

The Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering is a research organization engaged in investigations and experiments in the fields of chemistry, physics, engineering, and other sciences with the objective of improving agriculture and developing new and wider uses for agricultural products.

Under the broad subject of the application of the science of chemistry to the improvement of agriculture, the Bureau is engaged in investigations concerning the technology, manufacture, utilization, and preservation, including freezing, of agricultural products and byproducts; in the biological, chemical, physical, microscopical, and technological investigation of foods, feeds, drugs, and substances used in the manufacture thereof, including studies of their physiological effects on the human organism; experiments on the utilization of agricultural and other raw materials for industrial purposes; and development of improved processes in the production of rosin and turpentine. The four regional research laboratories, buildings for which are now under construction, will soon begin investigations to develop new and wider uses for agricultural commodities.

The Bureau conducts investigations of farm machinery, farm buildings, rural electrification, and other engineering phases of agriculture. The investigations include land-clearing methods; planning farm operations, equipment, and lay-out for more efficient production; mechanical equipment for producing and processing farm products, including seedbed preparation, planting, cultivating and harvesting, fertilizer placement, hay drying, cotton ginning, fiber flax processing machinery, and control of insect pests; development of means to prevent dust explosions and agricultural fires; and the planning and construction of farm buildings, including heating, lighting, insulation, sanitation, and water supply for farmhouses, crop storages, and animal shelters, and facilities for the transportation and storage of perishable fruits and vegetables. Service is rendered other bureaus of the Department in the design and construction of structures outside the District of Columbia and the purchase of engineering equipment.

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics is the general program planning agency of the Department. Under a general memorandum of understanding the Bureau cooperates with the operating agencies of the Department in developing a unified general program that encompasses land use, conservation, production adjustment, farm tenancy, rural rehabilitation, marketing service and regulatory work, and other authorized activities.

Extensive cooperation is maintained with State, county, and other local agencies throughout the United States, particular attention being given to work with State and county planning committees and to program study and discussion for the purpose of focusing attention upon important problems of land use and of agricultural production and distribution, and to secure active participation by rural people in developing plans for the solution of these problems.

The Bureau is also the Department's research agency in the field of agricultural economics. It conducts research and statistical analyses relative to agricultural production, distribution, land utilization, and conservation in their broad aspects. This work includes studies of farm management and practice, utilization of farm and food products, purchasing of farm supplies, farm population and rural life, farm labor, farm finance, insurance and taxation, and adjustments in production to probable demand for the different farm and food products. It covers also economic research on land ownership and values, costs, prices, and income in their relation to agriculture, including causes of their variations and trends.

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

The Agricultural Marketing Service is a service and regulatory agency concerned with the various phases of marketing farm products. Its five broad fields of service are: (1) The collection and dissemination of crop and livestock production and other agricultural statistics; (2) the daily reporting of market information from terminal markets, shipping points, and producing sections; (3) standardization and inspection of farm products and a number of food products; (4) research and demonstration in standardization, grading, preparation for market, and other related phases of marketing; and (5) the administration of rules of fair play in the merchandising of farm commodities.

Estimates of acreage, yield, production, farm utilization, and sales are reported for more than 100 crops. Timely information is provided on the progress of all major crops during the growing season. Current reports also are issued on livestock production, milk and egg production and consumption, on prices received and paid by farmers, on farm wages and farm labor, etc.

Market information is disseminated daily on movement, supplies, quality, and prices of livestock, meats, wool, fruits, vegetables, dairy and poultry products, grains, cotton, tobacco, and miscellaneous products. Much of the information is gathered and released at terminal markets and transmitted over a leased-wire system to other markets. During the heavy shipping season, temporary field stations are maintained in major producing areas.

The standardization activities of the Service provide an understandable and uniform yardstick for measuring gradations in quality of

farm and food products. Official standards have been formulated for most of the important farm products. Some of these standards, such as for grain and cotton, are mandatory if the products are sold by grade and are shipped in interstate or foreign commerce. For most of the other commodities, the use of the standards is permissive.

A market inspection service is available in many of the principal producing and receiving centers of the country for grains, fruits and vegetables, meats and meat products, cotton, tobacco, hay, beans, butter, cheese, eggs, and poultry. Mandatory and free inspection of tobacco is provided at more than 35 designated auction markets. Free cotton classification is provided, on request, to groups of producers organized for the improvement of their cotton.

As a basis for these services, research is conducted on standardization and inspection, packing, packaging, labeling, transporting, storing, market reporting, and crop and livestock estimating. Extensive research deals with the problems of grading and with the grade factors that make for variations in quality of farm products. Laboratory studies include milling and baking tests with grains, spinning and ginning tests with various types and grades of cotton, wool shrinkage tests, etc. Demonstrations and schools are held among the growers and consumers for the purpose of acquainting them with the grades for individual commodities and with the marketing practices that help to maintain high quality.

These various activities of the Service involve the administration of a number of specific laws: United States Grain Standards Act, United States Warehouse Act, United States Cotton Futures Act, United States Standard Container Acts, Federal Seed Act, Dairy Exports Act, Packers and Stockyards Act, United States Cotton Standards Act, Produce Agency Act, Cotton Grade and Staple Statistics Act, Wool Standards Act, Tobacco Stocks and Standards Act, Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act of 1930, Export Apple and Pear Act, Tobacco Inspection Act, Peanut Statistics Act.

BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY

The Bureau of Animal Industry is primarily concerned with the protection and development of the livestock and meat industries of the United States. It conducts scientific investigations of the causes, prevention, and treatment of diseases of domestic animals; investigates the existence of communicable diseases of such animals, and aids in their control or eradication; and carries on investigations and experiments in animal husbandry and in the feeding and breeding of animals. It also is charged with the administration of the Meat Inspection Act, the animal quarantine acts, the 28-hour law, the diseased animal transportation acts, and the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act.

COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION

Commodity Credit Corporation was created as an agency of the United States, under the laws of the State of Delaware, on October 17, 1933, pursuant to Executive Order No. 6340, dated October 16, 1933. Its functions were first extended by the act of January 31, 1935 (Public No. 1, 74th Cong.), to April 1, 1937, and were subsequently extended to June 30, 1941, or such earlier date as may be determined by the President, by the act of January 26, 1937 (Public No. 2, 75th

Cong.), as amended by act of March 4, 1939 (Public No. 3, 76th Cong.). Reorganization Plan No. I, approved by the Congress of the United States pursuant to the act of April 3, 1939 (Public No. 19, 76th Cong.), provided for the transfer of Commodity Credit Corporation and its functions and activities to the Department of Agriculture to be administered under the general direction and supervision of the Secretary of Agriculture.

Commodity Credit Corporation has an authorized and paid in capital of \$100,000,000. Under the provisions of the act of March 8, 1938 (Public No. 442, 75th Cong.), the Secretary of the Treasury is required to make an appraisal of all of the assets and liabilities of the Corporation, as of March 31 each year, for the purpose of determining its net worth, and in the event such appraisal establishes a net worth of less than \$100,000,000, the Secretary of the Treasury is required, on behalf of the United States, subject to appropriation of funds therefor which is authorized by the act, to restore the amount of such capital impairment. In the event the net worth of the Corporation, as of March 31 of any year, is in excess of \$100,000,000, such excess is required to be deposited in the Treasury by Commodity Credit Corporation to be credited to miscellaneous receipts.

Under the act of March 8, 1938, as amended by act of March 4, 1939 (Public No. 3, 76th Cong.), the Corporation is authorized, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, to issue and have outstanding at any one time, bonds, notes, debentures, and other similar obligations in an aggregate amount of not exceeding \$900,000,000.

Commodity Credit Corporation is essentially a lending institution, making loans principally to producers to finance the carrying and orderly marketing of agricultural commodities. Section 302 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 authorizes the Corporation, upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Agriculture with the approval of the President, to make loans on agricultural commodities (including dairy products) and, except as otherwise provided therein, the amount, terms and conditions of such loans shall be fixed by the Secretary of Agriculture, subject to the approval of the Corporation and the President. Under its charter, the Corporation is empowered, among other things, to buy and sell, lend upon, or otherwise deal in commodities, agricultural or otherwise.

COMMODITY EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATION

The Commodity Exchange Administration is charged with the enforcement of the Commodity Exchange Act, as amended. This involves Federal regulation of all commodity exchanges which conduct a futures market in any of the following commodities: Wheat, cotton, corn, oats, barley, rye, rice, flaxseed, grain sorghums, mill-feeds, butter, eggs, Irish potatoes, and wool tops. Such exchanges are required to qualify under the act as contract markets and be so designated by the Secretary of Agriculture.

This Administration is engaged in the continuous and systematic observance of future trading and speculative activity in the above-named commodities with a view to: (1) Preventing manipulation and corners, and excessive speculation causing unreasonable and unnatural price fluctuations; (2) preventing the dissemination of false or misleading crop and market information affecting prices; (3) preventing

cheating, fraud, and deceit in connection with the execution of customers' orders; (4) insuring proper treatment and handling by commission firms of moneys belonging to their customers; (5) preventing bucketing and fictitious transactions; and (6) the registration of futures commission merchants and floor brokers handling orders for others. Reports are compiled and released daily concerning volume of trading and amount of open futures contracts in various commodities; complaints are investigated, and general studies are made concerning the operations of contract markets, which are published from time to time for the information of Congress and the general public. The Administration cooperates with other governmental agencies in obtaining factual data and in providing information of interest and value in connection with supply and demand factors affecting prices.

BUREAU OF DAIRY INDUSTRY

The Bureau of Dairy Industry conducts research in the breeding, feeding, and management of dairy cattle to promote efficiency in the production of milk and to improve its nutritive and sanitary quality. It cooperates with the State dairy extension services in the establishment of approved dairy practices through the medium of dairy herd-improvement associations. It maintains a record of the identity and individual performance of all cows and herd sires enrolled in these associations to help dairymen find superior germ plasm for breeding better-producing herds. It conducts scientific studies to develop sanitary methods of handling milk on the farm, in transit, and in dairy plants and to promote efficiency in dairy-plant equipment, arrangement, and operation. Also, it studies the bacteriology and chemistry of milk and its products, and problems in manufacture of dairy products and byproducts; assists in establishing new products and methods in dairy plants; and inspects renovated-butter factories.

BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY AND PLANT QUARANTINE

The Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine is concerned with investigations on insects and their economic relations; the development and application of methods for their eradication or control; the carrying out, in cooperation with the States, of necessary work to prevent the spread and to control or eradicate insect pests and plant diseases that have gained more or less limited foothold in the United States; and the utilization of those species that are beneficial. These activities include investigations on and direction of control campaigns against the species injurious to agriculture and forestry; investigations on the species affecting the health of man and animals, or infesting human habitations or injurious to industries; the culture and use of honeybees and beekeeping practices; investigations on the natural enemies of insects and plant pests and the possibility of using these as aids for control; the taxonomy, anatomy, physiology, and responses of insects; chemical and other problems relating to the composition, action, and application of insecticides; and the development of methods of manufacturing insecticides and materials used with them.

To aid in carrying out these assignments and to protect agriculture from plant pests and diseases, the Bureau is responsible for the enforce-

ment of the following acts and restrictive orders promulgated thereunder: The Plant Quarantine Act of 1912, as amended; the Insect Pest Act of 1905; the act of 1922 governing the importation of adult honeybees; the act providing for the Mexican border inspection and control service; the act providing for export certification to meet sanitary requirements of foreign countries for plants and plant products; the Terminal Inspection Act of 1915, as amended (in cooperation with the Post Office Department).

FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

The Farm Security Administration is established within the Department of Agriculture to carry out in part the provisions of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act, approved July 22, 1937. This act expresses the policy of Congress to continue a program of rural rehabilitation providing for the advancement of funds to needy farm families upon the basis of farm and home management plans, and the equitable adjustment of farm debts. It provides for a program of long-term loans to worthy farm tenants to assist them in becoming farm owners. The Administration is also charged with the completion and administration of resettlement and rehabilitation projects prosecuted under the program of its predecessor, the Resettlement Administration.

FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION

The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation offers insurance against all natural crop hazards to the wheat farmers of the Nation, guaranteeing them 50 percent or 75 percent of their average yield from the crops which they plant in return for a specified premium. The Corporation guarantees only yield and not price. The farmers have the option of paying their premiums in cash or in kind; however, all reserves for crop insurance written by the Corporation are carried in the form of wheat. The activities of the Corporation also tend to relieve violent fluctuations in the market price of wheat due to the supply of wheat by withholding the quantity represented by the premiums collected from market channels in years of normal or bumper crops and making additional quantities available in market channels through payment of indemnities in years when the farmers suffer severe crop losses.

The Corporation was created by the Federal Crop Insurance Act (title V of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, approved February 16, 1938) as a nonprofit Corporation with capital stock of \$100,000,000. The act authorized crop insurance for wheat only; however, it provided that research should be done on the feasibility of extending crop insurance to other agricultural commodities.

In addition to the Washington, D. C., headquarters office of the Corporation, branch offices have been established in Kansas City, Missouri, Minneapolis, Minnesota, Chicago, Illinois, Spokane, Washington, and Washington, D. C., to facilitate the carrying out of the provisions of the Federal Crop Insurance Act. The field work in the various states and counties is carried on through the State and county agricultural conservation committees.

FEDERAL SURPLUS COMMODITIES CORPORATION

The Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation is the principal instrumentality of the Secretary of Agriculture for the removal of surplus agricultural commodities pursuant to section 32 of Public No. 320, approved August 24, 1935, as amended. It is a nonprofit corporation without capital stock organized under the laws of the State of Delaware and authorized by Congress to be employed as an agency of the Secretary of Agriculture by Public No. 165, Seventy-fifth Congress, approved June 28, 1937, as amended.

The Corporation purchases, transports, stores, handles, processes, and distributes to State welfare agencies surplus agricultural commodities at the direction of the Secretary of Agriculture, following a determination that a surplus condition exists and that a purchase program would help to correct this situation. The findings of the Secretary follow recommendations by the Division of Marketing and Marketing Agreements based upon economic analyses which specifically describe the kind of commodity to be purchased, the maximum quantity to be bought, the maximum price to be paid, the minimum quality to be procured, and which define the area in which purchases are to be made.

The Corporation also administers the food-stamp program. It issues food stamps to State welfare agencies, prescribes regulations governing their use, and supervises all activities in connection with the program. The Corporation announces the commodities declared to be surplus by the Secretary after consideration of the recommendations of the Division of Marketing and Marketing Agreements, based upon economic analyses of the current food product market situation.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

The Food and Drug Administration enforces the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, Tea Act, Naval Stores Act, Insecticide Act, Import Milk Act, Caustic Poison Act, and Filled Milk Act.

This Administration inspects and analyzes samples of the various products coming under its surveillance, both at its field stations and in its laboratories at Washington, to the end that it may detect and cause to be removed from the channels of trade all those that fail to comply with the terms of the acts which it enforces. It assists manufacturers to keep their products in compliance with these acts and institutes legal action against those who violate the law. Its primary function is to protect the consuming public against misbranded or adulterated foods, drugs, devices, cosmetics, naval stores, insecticides, and fungicides, and honest manufacturers against enforced competition with such goods.

FOREST SERVICE

Congress has designated the Forest Service as the agency of the Federal Government specifically responsible for protecting, developing, and administering certain public lands and their living resources. It is also authorized to help States and farm, industrial, and other owners to protect and develop such of their lands as are more valuable in forest growth than as plow land.

Broadly, responsibilities of the Forest Service are: (1) To initiate and apply, locally and nationally, action programs in the interest of public welfare and help with action programs initiated by county, State, and Federal agencies; (2) to protect, develop, and administer in the public interest the national-forest system and its resources, products, values, and services; (3) to conduct research in problems involving protection, development, management, renewal, and continuous use of all resources, products, values, and services of forest lands; (4) to make research and administrative findings and results available to individuals, industries, and public and private agencies generally.

The national forest system comprises 175,238,168 acres of Government land. On these public properties forestry methods are applied in growing and harvesting timber. Grazing by livestock and big game is scientifically regulated. Sustained and, where possible, increased yields of timber, forage, and wildlife are obtained. Water from protected watersheds is used in the country and in cities, for domestic, agricultural, and industrial purposes. Simple, democratic, and inexpensive forms of recreation are encouraged. Under management to assure replacement, provision is also made for many other forms of land and resource use.

In research, in national forest administration, and in initiating and applying action programs the Forest Service works in close cooperation with other branches and bureaus of the Department; is guided by the Department's basic purpose of establishing and maintaining such sound land-and-resource management and use as will help build and maintain communities and local and national social and economic structures.

BUREAU OF HOME ECONOMICS

The Bureau of Home Economics conducts research to determine qualities of agricultural products from point of view of consumer needs and satisfactions; needs of families for food, clothing, housing, equipment, and other goods and services as guides to production and consumption; guides for standards for consumers' goods and other aids to homemakers in their problems of household buying; adequacy of diets of farm, village, and city families as guides to agricultural production and to improved national food-consumption habits; use of home-produced food by farm families to provide guides to land use, bases for estimates of family income from this source, and to help families with their home-farm management plans; and ways of raising levels of living of farm families through improvement of rural housing, better family food plans, and spending programs.

Research results are made available through technical and popular bulletins, radio talks, and exhibits. The bureau works closely with the Extension Service, Farm Security Administration, the Office of Education, and other agencies in their programs of educating homemakers toward improving their dietary habits and ways of spending, and otherwise using their resources more effectively in family living.

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY

The activities of the Bureau of Plant Industry are devoted to plant research and related problems. They include experiments in the

improvement of plants so as to increase the certainty of their yield, quality, and resistance to unfavorable environments, and to diseases and insect pests, thereby attaining stability of efficient production; fundamental research on the laws of inheritance looking to the establishment of the soundest procedures in plant breeding; the introduction and testing of promising seeds and plants from foreign countries; investigations of the methods of cultivation and allied operations, such as spraying to protect from important diseases, making for economical and profitable production of field, fruit, vegetable, and ornamental plants, together with studies of the physiology, morphology, and cytology necessary to an adequate understanding of the relation between environment and cultivation on the one hand and yield and quality on the other; fundamental studies of the relation of the crops to the soil including the classification and mapping of the soils of the United States, the agricultural value of soils, their characteristics in relation to productiveness, their origin, and development, their physical and chemical properties, the relations of crops to the soil, including materials and methods making for successful fertilizer practice and the function of micro-organisms in soil fertility and crop production; and investigations seeking to establish the best methods of storing plant products in warehouse or during transportation in order to insure maximum final quality and minimum loss and expense during storage and marketing.

The regulatory activities of the Bureau are limited to the control of quality of plant and soil inoculants.

In addition to the experimental activities of the Bureau at the Arlington (Va.) Experiment Farm, which is immediately adjacent to the District of Columbia, and at the United States Horticultural Station at the Beltsville Research Center, the Bureau operates field stations or laboratories in practically all the major cropping regions of the United States, a majority of its activities being in direct cooperation with the State agricultural experiment stations.

The development of the National Arboretum, established under the act of March 4, 1927 (Public No. 799, 69th Cong.), was directly assigned to the Bureau by the Congress. Pursuant to authority contained in the aforesaid act, the Secretary of Agriculture created the Advisory Council of the National Arboretum. The council makes recommendations concerning the establishment and maintenance of the National Arboretum for purposes of research and education regarding tree and plant life.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION

The Rural Electrification Administration is a lending agency to promote the extension of electric power lines to serve farms and rural communities not now receiving central-station service, and incidental thereto conducts educational activities directed toward increasing the cost-reducing and income-producing use of electric power on farms. Loans are made to organized local groups, in most cases farmers' cooperatives and other non-profit organizations as specified in the Act, for construction and operation of electrical power-distribution systems in unserved areas. In a few cases loans are made for power-generating facilities also. These loans are amortized over a 25-year period from revenues from sales of electric power. Supplementary

loans are made to line-construction borrowers, to provide funds to relend to their individual members to finance installations of wiring, plumbing, and some categories of electric farm and home equipment.

The Administration has no regional offices, all contacts being made through Washington. However, a number of engineers, auditors, project examiners, and load-building specialists are kept in field work, visiting the nearly 700 borrowers' systems.

The Rural Electrification Administration was created by Executive Order No. 7037 on May 11, 1935, as an independent agency under the Emergency Relief Act of that year. On October 16, 1936, the Rural Electrification Act, approved May 20, 1936, became effective and the Administration became a permanent agency with a 10-year program outlined by the Congress. On July 1, 1939, it became part of the Department of Agriculture under terms of the President's Second Reorganization Plan.

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

The Soil Conservation Service assists soil conservation districts organized under State law in planning and applying farm programs of erosion control and improved land use; conducts soil conservation demonstration projects in cooperation with the farmers of selected areas; supervises the technical activities of C. C. C. camps assigned to erosion control and to farm drainage work; manages a program of submarginal farm-land purchase, and subsequent development for more beneficial uses; helps land operators in selected areas of the 17 Western States to construct and install needed water facilities; and carries on farm-forestry projects to demonstrate the value of sound woodland management. As a background to operations work on the land, the Service also conducts scientific investigations of soil conservation, irrigation, and farm-drainage problems in major agricultural regions; operates a series of nurseries for the propagation and production of erosion-resistant plants; and makes surveys as a basis for planning and field operations both in soil conservation and upstream flood control.

WEATHER BUREAU

The Weather Bureau has charge of the forecasting of the weather; issue and display of weather forecasts and storm, cold-wave, frost, forest-fire weather, and flood warnings; gaging and reporting of river stages; collection and transmission of marine intelligence for the benefit of commerce and navigation; collection and furnishing of meteorological information and forecasts, including upper-air observations, for the benefit of air navigation; reporting of temperature and rainfall conditions for agricultural interests; and the taking of such meteorological observations as may be necessary to determine and record the climatic conditions of the United States.

FARMERS' HOME CORPORATION

The Farmers' Home Corporation was created within the Department of Agriculture by section 40 (a) of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act. In accordance with further provisions of said act, the Secretary of Agriculture has directed that the board of directors of the

Farmers' Home Corporation shall act as general adviser to the Secretary and to the Administrator of the Farm Security Administration on general policies relating to title I (farm tenant provisions) and title II (rehabilitation loans) of said act, and shall further advise the Secretary with respect to the coordination of the program authorized by said titles I and II with the general work of the Department.

JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

JOINT COMMITTEE ON POLICY AND MANUSCRIPTS

The functions of the Joint Committee for the Journal of Agricultural Research are to establish and maintain the general publication policies and standards for this periodical. This committee prepares or approves the printed regulations stating the conditions for acceptance of articles in the Journal and giving detailed instructions for the preparation and handling of manuscripts intended for this outlet. The Department Committee passes upon the manuscripts originating in the bureaus, and the Land-Grant College Committee those submitted from the State agricultural experiment stations.

TENNESSEE VALLEY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

The function of this regional coordinating committee is to insure coordination of the agricultural activities of the three agencies named and to provide complete cooperation, whenever desirable, in conducting the programs they develop.

The Tennessee Valley Authority, created in 1933, is required to conduct various agricultural activities in the conservation and use of water and land, including erosion control through vegetative cover, and in cheapening the cost and improving the quality of fertilizers, including extensive experiment station and farm tests of new forms produced. These activities are closely related to those of older agencies, such as the Department and the State colleges, which are conducting effective and largely cooperative programs of research, experimentation, and extension. Coordination is provided for under a three-way memorandum of agreement signed in 1934 by the Secretary of Agriculture, the presidents of the State colleges of agriculture in the seven valley States, and the chairman of the board of directors of the Authority.





